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queathed a fund of $10,000 for the increase of his herbarium and library. The latter, containing 712 volumes. also comes to Brown University, together with his Chevalier and Smith & Beck's microscopes and much valuable apparatus and material. With another $25,000 left by the deceased Colonel, a professorship of Natural History has been created. One of the duties of the professor is to give lectures on Botany.

In these random notes are stated only a few of the points suggested by the subject. It will be seen that Brown University has received a royal legacy, and has the nucleus upon which to build up a really fine herbarium. The present situation of the plants, while meeting the requirements of the will, is not at all what a botanist could wish. The shelves are crowded and unfit for the purpose; there is no work-room, and most of all, the books one needs for consultation are at the extreme other end of the building. These draw-backs will be rectified, no doubt, as time goes on. Our college is growing in every way, and is making especially rapid strides in science since the advent of Dr. A. S. Packard, Jr. He asks the assistance and co-operation of botanists throughout the country. Such as assist us will receive every courtesy.

Col. Olney's library contains many valuable illustrated books, together with those which are indispensable to a working systematist. It is weak in morphological and histological works, but the University is fast supplying the deficiency. The botanical correspondence covers many pages, and is carefully filed. Original letters from Torrey, Gray, Hooker, Englemann, Canby, Thurber, and a host of others, will always afford a treasure house of information.

W. W. BAILEY.

Brown University, Providence, Sept. 10, 1880.

Let me add, by way of postscript, that the Providence Athenaeum now possesses many fine botanical works, and that the Public Library has requested the writer to make out a list for purchase. These, with the collections of the college, of Mr. Bennett, of Mr. Arnold Green, and the writer, afford a pretty good opportunity for useful work.

W. H. B.

§ 93. **A Laminaria new to the U. S.**—In the month of August last, I collected on the coast of Maine, a *Laminaria* which I think must be the species described by Agardh in his *Species Algarum* as *L. longipes*, Bory. I have not been able to make comparison with an authentic specimen of this species, but my plant corresponds very well with Agardh's description.

The most striking character of the plant is its extreme length compared with its breadth. In what appeared to be full grown plants, the length was from one to two metres, and the breadth two to seven centimetres, the last breadth being found only in the longest and oldest plants, the tips of which had already begun to decay. I have one specimen which now, in the dry state, measures as follows: length of stipe, 12 cm.; lamina, 1 m. 45 cm.; breadth of lamina exactly 1 cm. I think such proportions have never been met with in any other *Laminaria*.

The stipe of this species is solid and quite terete, and always exceeds in length several times the breadth of the lamina. The latter is strong, and as thick as in a plant of *L. saccharina*, Lam. of the same length; is not at all wrinkled, and, with the exception of a short tapering at the base and apex, is absolutely linear, the edges for the whole length being as perfectly true as if cut by machinery.

I found this plant growing at a place known as Fox Island (though it is not an island) near the mouth of the Kennebec. The whole rock, from a short distance above low water mark to an unknown depth, was completely covered with it, no other *Laminaria* growing with it. All the other rocks in the neighborhood were covered by either *L. saccharina*, Lam., or *L. longicruris*, De la P., and I saw none of this plant among them. I also found a few fronds of *L. dermatodea*, De la P., cast up by the waves ; but I saw no specimens that seemed in the least to connect the new form with any other species.

FRANK S. COLLINS.

Malden, Mass.

§ 94. **Phegopteris Dryopteris,** Fée.—Is not Hampshire Co., W. Va., a much more southerly station for this fern than has been yet reported? In June last it was growing finely and profusely on the right bank of New Creek, two miles above the junction with the Potomac.

JOHN DONNELL SMITH.

Baltimore., Oct. 27.

§ 95. **A Viviparous Grass.**—Mr. E. S. Wheeler has kindly sent me from Berlin, Mass., specimens of [*]*Phleum pratense*, L., in which the changed appearance of the spike is so complete and so great that it would puzzle any one but an expert agrostologist to decide positively as to the species. Speaking of the metamorphoses of the floral organs of grasses into leaves, Dr. Masters (*Veg. Teratol.*, p. 168) says : "In these cases it generally happens that the outermost glumes are changed ; sometimes, however, even the outer and inner paleae are wholly unchanged, while there is no trace of squamulae or of stamens and pistils within them, but in their place is a small shoot with miniature leaves arranged in the ordinary manner." The changes in the *Phleum* under consideration come under none of these categories, but agree, rather, with those observed by [†]Mohl in a viviparous state of *Poa alpina*, L.—a study of which, in its various stages, led him to the conclusion that the inferior palet is but a bract from whose axil the floral axis takes rise, and not, as Brown had theorized, a perianthial leaf. In the *Phleum* sent me by Mr. Wheeler, every one of the inferior palets has been transformed into a perfect leaf, with its lamina, ligule, and sheath ; the latter proceeding from a joint on the

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[*] In the *Flora of Richmond Co.*, (p. 33), this same form is said to be occasionally abundant late in the season, on Staten Island.

[†] *Ann. & Mag. Nat. Hist.*, Vol. XV., p. 174, from *Botanische Zeitung*, January, 1845.